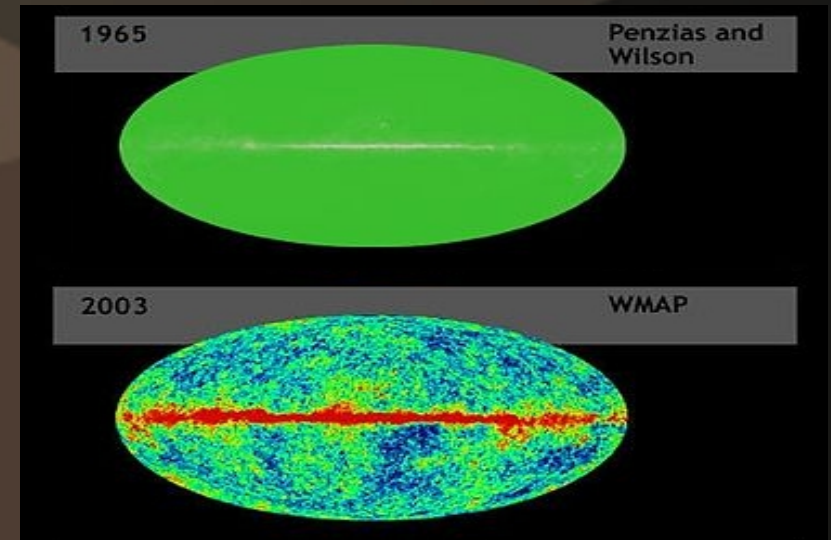


Discovery of Cosmic Microwave Background Radiation [1965]

OVERVIEW

While experimenting with a horn antenna, Robert Wilson and Arno Penzias found a mysterious background noise in their reduced data. This residual noise was interpreted to be the cosmic microwave background radiation (CMB) at a temperature of 2.7K.



Robert Wilson and Arno Penzias
with the Holmdel Horn Antenna

IMPACT

This discovery, no matter how accidental, was evidence of an expanding universe and against the steady state model of a universe that will not change. The CMB is thought to be the leftover thermal radiation from the Big Bang.